

# AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN



Published by the  
AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 7

Fall 1971

Number 2

# AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY — 1971-1972

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# AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN

Published by the

AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1964

Post Office Box 686

Staunton, Virginia 24401



Volume 7

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450 Copies printed by  
McCLURE PRINTING COMPANY, INC.  
Verona, Virginia

Copies of this issue to all members

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Trinity Episcopal Church, Staunton, Virginia

### PART II SERIES OF OLD HOMES OF AUGUSTA COUNTY.

An illustrated program given to the Augusta County Historical Society at Trinity Parish Hall, Staunton, Virginia, May 14, 1971. Assembled and presented by Mrs. William Bushman

THE PLUMB HOUSE, Waynesboro, Virginia by Calder Loth  
THE OLDEST RESIDENT, Staunton *Vindicator* February 4, 1887

MARY JULIA BALDWIN by Fannie B. Strauss

HENRY MILLER'S "MANSION HOUSE," Landmark Project  
Series by Gladys B. Clem

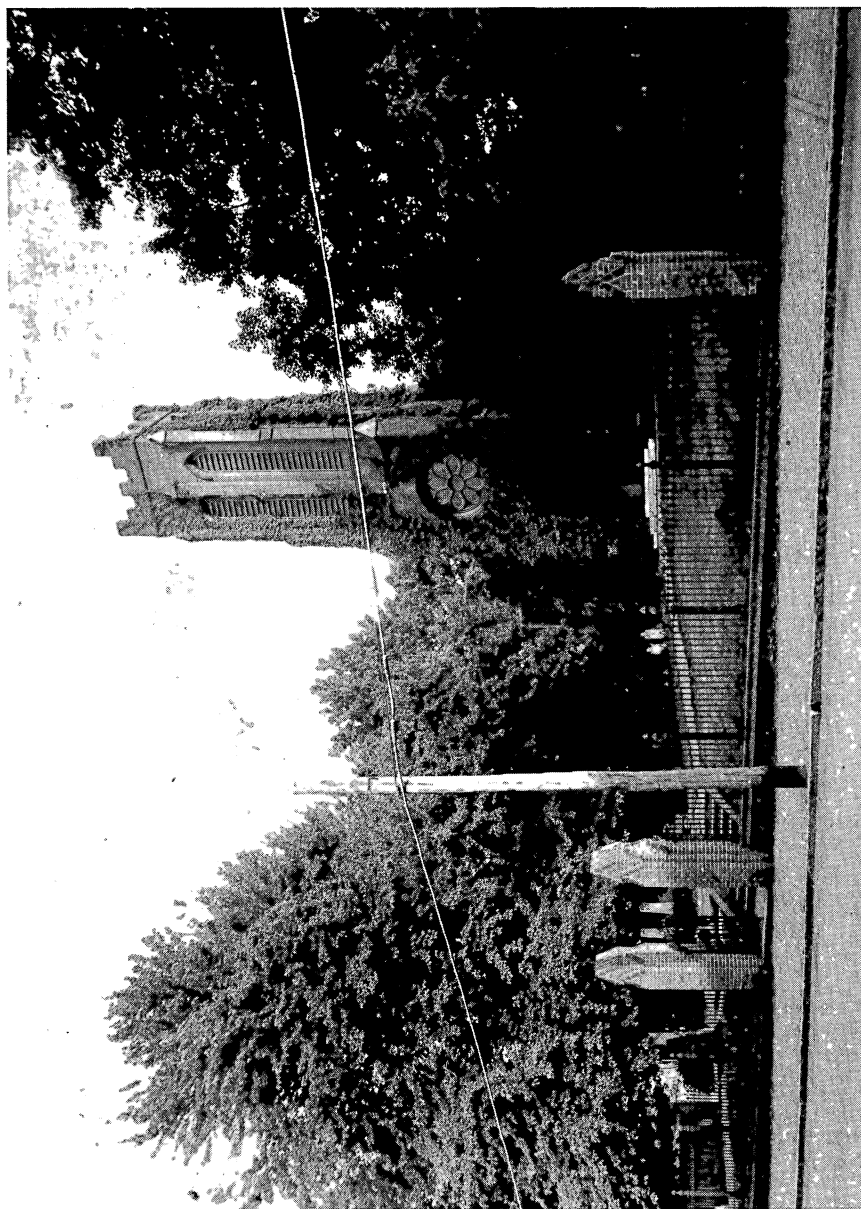
STAUNTON AND AUGUSTA COUNTY SOME 200 YEARS  
AGO.

### LIST OF MEMBERS

A purpose of the Augusta County Historical Society is to publish *Augusta Historical Bulletin* to be sent without charge to all members. Single issues are available at \$1.50 per copy.

The membership of the society is composed of annual and life members who pay the following dues:

Annual (individual) .....	\$5.00
Annual (family) .....	\$8.00
Annual (sustaining) .....	\$25.00
Life Membership .....	\$100.00
Annual (Institutional) .....	\$10.00
Contributing—Any amount	



Known originally as Augusta Parish Church. Founded in 1746 as the County Parish. The Virginia General Assembly met here in June 1781 to avoid capture by British raiders. Present church erected in 1855. Trinity Episcopal Church, Staunton, Virginia.

*Picture credit; Staunton Chamber of Commerce*

## Part II Series of Old Homes of Augusta County

We are pleased to present Part II of the Landmark project of the Augusta County Historical Society. We will show some 55 additional old homes of the county—we hope it will please you as a presentation.

Again, our sincere appreciation goes to all those homeowners who welcomed us into their homes and gave us the privilege of making photographs, as well as learning the stories of their homes.

We also wish to recognize the photographers who took their time to obtain the pictures you will see—most of the pictures were taken by members of the Staunton Camera Club: James McCool, George Yarrow, W. H. Payne, Roy Sheets, Sergio Casado, David Bushman. Special recognition is given to Mrs. George Yarrow who researched the information on the Staunton homes.

As you will see from tonight's show, our task is not finished. There are other areas of the county to be completed, and each district has homes with interesting histories to be recorded.

In the two years since this project was first presented, the subject has been one of great interest, not only in Augusta County, but also in Rockingham County, and as far south as Florida. Because of the availability of these slides, the people of Augusta County know what the Augusta County Historical Society is.

So we will again take an armchair journey through Augusta County by way of its old homes—all of which are true landmarks.

### RIVERHEADS

Site of Greenway. Interstate 81, between Greenville and Spottswood.

The old stone building in the foreground is the remaining structure of Greenway, the home of Adam Shultz. After Adam Shultz died, it was purchased in 1863 by William S. Hawpe and used as a grazing farm. The house burned at a later date, leaving just the stone kitchen.

Northeast of this site, rumor has it that an old log school which once stood on the hill, was the original building of what is today Washington and Lee University.

### SOUTH RIVER

Stony Point, Barterbrook, intersection of 635 and 643. The history of this interesting stone house can be found in the history of Tinkling Spring Church by Dr. Howard M. Wilson. It was built in 1852 by the Rev. Robert Lewis Dabney, pastor of the church from 1847-1853.

Built of stone he quarried himself, of his own design, on land he said was poor, at an approximate cost of \$1000, he was able to combine taste



# FARM FOR SALE.

By virtue of the last Will of Adam Shultz, deceased, I will proceed to sell, to the highest bidder, on

**SATURDAY, THE 25TH OF JULY, 1863,**

the Homestead Farm of Adam Shultz, containing

**304 ACRES,**

and known as **GREENWAY**. This farm lies in Augusta County, near the road leading from Staunton to Lexington, three miles from Greenville. The land is of good quality, and is especially desirable as a stock farm, being greatly adapted to grass, with water in every field, and a good proportion of valuable Meadow. There is on it a good Mansion, with 8 rooms and cellar, with all necessary Out-buildings, and two Springs of good water in the yard.

This Farm combines as many conveniences as any farm in the county, and is a very desirable investment.

Full possession given on the 1st day of October, 1863.

**TERMS** :--One-half down, and the balance in One and Two Years, with bond and approved security, and lien on the Land retained as further security.

**WM. S. HAWPE,**  
Ex'or of A. Shultz, dec'd.

June 30, 1863:

and beauty with economy. He called it "Stony Point," a name literally true and appropriate. He wrote his mother in Louisa County: "it will be a very peculiar, picturesque and tasteful house, and within, a perfect little snugery."

In 1853, Reverend Dabney accepted the election to the chair of Ecclesiastical History and Polity of Union Theological Seminary, which he held for 30 years. In addition to this position, the Presbyterian Church, U. S., elevated him in 1870 to its highest office—that of moderator of the General Assembly meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. He was able to live in this home, which represents so much of his own labor, for about a year before leaving for the Seminary.

Today, Stony Point is owned by Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Bunch, of Staunton, who are restoring it for their home.

## RIVERHEADS

Windswept Hills—Route 695, east of Middlebrook Road. This most interesting home, Windswept Hills, is being carefully restored by its owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby N. Cline. From 1872, when he purchased it, this was the home of George W. Fauber, superintendent of the poor farm (which is adjacent to this home). Mr. Fauber was superintendent of the poor farm from 1865 until 1883. George Fauber bought the house from Sarah Margaret Fauber Wilder, daughter of David Fauber and Barbara Palmer. The land originally came to David Fauber through his wife whose father was Jacob Palmer. David Fauber acquired the land in 1828 by buying two of the shares of Peter and George Palmer, plus the share of his wife, Barbara, who was one of 11 children. Thus we can assume that the house was built—at least the oldest part—circa 1830.

Mr. and Mrs. Cline have owned the house since 1964, and have kept a photographic record of the progress they have made in restoration.

This is a home of 6 rooms—at one time there was another addition to the ell which was probably constructed at same time as the frame portion of the front. The oldest part of the house is brick, with a ground level basement kitchen. The floor joists are of oak logs. The attic rafters are pegged. The walls are 18 inches thick, solid brick, with crusader doors still fastened with the original hardware as well as enormous bolts. The parlor and dining room have the original chair rail as well as original floors of wide pine. The window panes are old glass—some of which have large bubbles in them.

This is another home which sits with its front door away from the present day road, since the original road has passed out of existence—but can be seen on the Jed Hotchkiss map of 1885 of Riverheads District.

Mr. and Mrs. Cline have furnished their home in keeping with its period—the dining room has a beautiful old corner cupboard and Mennonite dining chairs which belonged to Mrs. Cline's grandmother. The kitchen, which is modern, has been done in the period of the house and sets off the collection of antique tin cooky cutters—85 of them—which are displayed on the wall, but, I might add, are also put to the use for which they were intended.

## PASTURES

Cowlsden and Valley Mills originally named Dam Site—Route 254, five miles west of Staunton. The home of Mrs. John S. Cowl and the late Mr. Cowl located where Route 254 crosses Middle River west of Staunton is also the site of historic Valley Mills. The first owner of the property was Capt. Philip O. Palmer whose foundry turned out nearly all the area's iron implements. Iron was mined on the north side of North Mountain, smelted and taken to the foundry. Capt. Palmer's most noted accomplishment was his invention of the water ram, a device used to force water considerable distances uphill.

The house, constructed sometime before 1855, connected with a portion of an even older residence which was known as the Old Ram House.

In May 1864, Stonewall Jackson used it as a rest camp for his foot weary soldiers for at least 3 days, then went on to McDowell to defeat General John Fremont, May 24, 1864.

## PASTURES

Intervale, Route 720, 2 miles west of Route 833. Today this lovely home is enjoyed by Mr. and Mrs. Gifford M. Mabie who came to Augusta County as the result of a vacation trip to see the farms of Virginia, saw Intervale, purchased it, and now make Augusta County their home.

This is Intervale, built in 1810 by a man by the name of Aylinger. It was purchased in 1830 by George Adam Shuey, grandfather of Mrs. Dorothy Shuey, daughter of Theodore F. Shuey who was the official reporter for the United States Senate in Washington, D. C.

The bricks were made on the place—there are lovely wide board floors, Christian Cross doors, hand-carved mantels with appropriate symbols on them—e. g.—acorns for fruitfulness. It is a home of 10-11 rooms and a house which has seen relatively little change.

It still has the original springhouse with its everflowing spring. Originally there were 350 acres of land and many woods. It stood alone in the area, and as Mrs. Shuey says, when you heard a carriage or horses coming, you knew that company was arriving.

Valley Meadows, Route 42, between Churchville and Buffalo Gap, known today as Valley Meadows, this is the Baxter Crawford home, located between Churchville and Buffalo Gap, west of Route 42—the home of the Frederick Sorrells, Sr., family in 1971.

In the 18th century, this was the site of the home of Alexander Crawford and his wife, Mary McPheeters Crawford, slain by Indians in the last raid made in the Valley in 1764—both Mr. and Mrs. Crawford are buried in historic Glebe Cemetery.

Former names of this old stone house are Edgemont—which was the name given to it by Mr. and Mrs. John Cowl during the years they resided there. Before that it was called Rocklands. The original tract of land had 1640 acres.

This home was built at two different times—construction shows this to be true. One of the slides which we have is of the cast iron plaque with the date 1769 on it. This artifact was found next to the more recent part of the structure.

During the time that Mr. and Mrs. Cowl made this their home, a surprise visitor one day was the great-great grandson of the Indian chief who was killed here during that last raid in 1764. A young man, he had stopped to see the place where his ancestor was buried while on his way home from his graduation from Harvard.

Paul Sieg Home—Whiskey Creek at Churchville. This is a very old house, built long before the death of Paul Sieg in 1846. Paul Sieg, was the grandson of Valentine Fauber, Sr., who came to Augusta County about 1789 from Shenandoah County, Virginia, and before that from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Paul Sieg was born in 1783 in Shenandoah County, the son of Paul Sieg and Susanna Fauber. His wife was Elizabeth Hains whom he married in 1816, and who was still living in 1860. Paul Sieg owned extensive lands in the western part of Augusta County.

Today it is the home of Mrs. Lacy Boward.

Churchville—In Churchville, just west of Loch Willow Presbyterian Church on Route 42, stands an unoccupied, frame building. It has the appearance of a stage coach stop or tavern, but was the Cease home, and before that belonged to one of the Sterretts. Many years ago, it was considered haunted.

Here is another unidentified frame dwelling in Pastures District around Churchville.

The old Crosby home—Route 720 south of Lone Fountain. This is the old Crosby home, restored and decorated in early American style. Present owner: Mr. Joseph S. Kline.

## NORTH RIVER

Berry Patch Farm—Owned by Mrs. Harold Berry—located on Route 732 near Frank's Mill, on Middle River.

This old log cabin was the slave quarters located on the old Henry Huffer place from which it was moved to the present location.

Austin Wenger, Route 732—This was formerly the George and Frank Dunlap home, now owned by Austin Wenger.

The old Spitler place, Route 732—This old house is at least 200 years old—has always been known as the Humpie Jake Kibler place. The present owner is Mr. W. A. Huffer—house is unoccupied.

The Wheeler Berry place, Route 732—This is the Wheeler Berry place now owned by Marian Burtner and is located on Route 732.

The Alexander Anderson George (Commodore) Anderson place, Route 732—This home standing beside Middle River was built on land originally granted to the grandfather of George Anderson, William Anderson, during the reign of George II, between 1740-1747.

It is not occupied—is of brick construction—the original springhouse stands behind it—now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Beverly Suter of Staunton. Mrs. Suter (Sarah Frances Anderson) is a direct descendant of William Anderson.

Dave Crosby place, Route 740 just off of Route 742—This is an old stone house, rapidly deteriorating, which stands on land owned now by L. W. Shuey, formerly owned by William E. Homes, and was the home of David Crosby.

Valentine Hupman Home, Route 739, east of Parnassus—Now the home of Mrs. Frank Bell Lewis, this was the home of the Valentine Hupman family, and is located on Route 739 east of Parnassus about 1½ miles.

Still House Field, Route 739, east of Parnassus—This house of unknown date, but interesting lines, is standing in what was known at Still House Field—at one time there was a still house back of it which has long been gone. Close by, there was a foundry where the wolf and bear traps, seen hanging on the porch, were made. A Mr. Matthews lives here now. This house is about ¾ mile east of Mrs. Lewis. Further down the road is an empty old frame house which is also of unknown age, but appears to be very old.

Rev. W. H. Zigler Home, Route 736—Located in front of the Union Presbyterian Church, it was built prior to the Civil War—all the bricks were made on the property that went into construction. Before Rev. Zigler's father bought it, it was in the hands of the Cochrans and Coiners. First constructed as four rooms—two up and two down—through the years there was division of rooms and the addition of an ell.

Today it is owned by Miss Lola May Shiflett of New York City.

Abram Silling, Bumgardner and Spencer place, located on Route 742, it is presently owned by Mrs. Nora Shelor.

Frank's Mill—Route 732. This was known as Hanger's Mill until 1860, when Robinson Hanger, son of George Hanger, sold the mill which his father is believed to have built in the early 1800's. In 1860, John Shuttlerlee bought 100 acres, including the residence and the merchant mill known as Hanger's. In 1908, A. E. Berry purchased the mill, and in 1917, G. A. Frank, father of W. H. Frank purchased the mill, which was operated by the Franks until December 15, 1970, when the "last" grains of wheat were drained from the storage bins to be ground into flour. As those grains of wheat were ground into flour, operation of one of the last commercial flour mills in the county was brought to a close." (Staunton Leader, Feb. 1, 1971).

The residence which is above the mill is believed to be at least 160-170 years old. It is a large brick structure, originally having a fireplace in each room. There are three separate cellars and a wash house.

Hidden Valley Farm, Route 736—Located near the Union Presbyterian Church, this was formerly the Henry Huffer place. The present owner is William D. Spitler.

Old Union Presbyterian Church Manse, Route 736—Part of this house is of log—formerly the manse of the church, it is owned today by Galen R. Whitmer and his son.

Glenecho Farms, Route 42—According to John Mohler, owner of this old home, this is the oldest home in the whole area for two miles on either side. He restored it and at present it is rented. His own home just to the south is also quite old, having been built about 1812. This farm is portrayed on the cover of "Progressive Farming" for May. The restored brick home has brick cornices.

R. L. Yates, Route 732 west of Springhill—This old home was at one time a fort, or at least a part of the present house was, so that the age can be judged to be more than 200 years. Part of the house is of stone—the steps in front are of logs. There is also a spring house on the property which is quite old.

It has been in the Yates family for four generations.

Springfield Farm, Route 732 east of Springhill—Built in the years 1787-1788-1789 by the pioneer Gamble family of Augusta County, this house has been recently restored by Carroll Fauber who purchased it from Carl Huffman of Mount Sidney. After partially restoring it, Mr. Fauber offered it at auction in November 1970 when it was bought by Dr. and Mrs. Paxton Powers who are completing the work of restoration. A house of some 8 rooms today, it was originally of 4—2 up and 2 down, with wide pine floor planks. The Hamrick house which adjoins the Huffman farm (as it was known), was built 3 years after. Both the Hamrick and Huffman farms were a part of the Gamble land. Information on this home came from Dr. Hamrick of Harrisonburg.

D. F. Roudabush, Route 613, north of Springhill—This is the original Abraham Litten place. Built in 1829 (brick in chimney has date in it), this is a home of 8 rooms with 18 inch walls of solid brick.

The staircase has dado on wall in exact replica of stair rail.

D. F. Roudabush has owned this since 1929, when it was sold by the Lytton heirs.

Glen Ruckman Home, Route 613—This large white brick home was constructed on land purchased in 1836 by Bethuel Herring, who died in 1882 at age of 81, having been an elder in Mossy Creek Church for many many years. The land was purchased from one of the Currys. According to his will it was left to his daughter Anna S. Ruckman. The present owners are the Rev. Paul and Alvin Shiflet.

It is the home of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Shiflet. It is a home of 8 rooms, 13 inch thick solid brick walls and random width floors.

R. B. Simmons, Route 613 (Long Glade Road), north of Springhill.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy B. Simmons reside in this strongly built stone home of 8 rooms. With walls 18 inches thick in the original part of 4 rooms—2 up and 2 down. The interior doors are crusader type—the rafters in the attic are cut and pinned.

W. F. Simmons, father of the present owner, purchased this home from Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Lockridge in 1935. Mrs. Lockridge inherited the home from her father, James F. Bell. James F. Bell was the son of Alexander Robertson Bell (who died in 1897 at age of 90), who purchased the land in 1839 from David and Elizabeth Griffith. David Griffith was the owner from 1825 when he had purchased from Robert Coyner.

Robert Coyner was deeded the land in 1822 by Martin Coyner who had owned it from 1813 when he bought it from Madgalene Griffith, widow of Abel Griffith. This house was probably built by the Griffiths prior to 1813.

Limestone Acres, Route 753, east of Glade Road (Route 613)—Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Riley Wagner, this home was built circa 1780 by John Francis—who died in 1786—a stone bearing the exact date in the 1780's is above the ceiling of the front porch. The style and construction bear the mark of "Hessian" workmanship. The corner stones on the house still bear the chisel marks where they were dressed.

Originally a home of 10 rooms, there are 9 now, since 2 bathrooms have been added. The walls are 18 inches thick, windows contain the original glass. Part of the wide pine random width floors are original. The doors are crusader style, with original woodwork still in place. The original plaster shows the animal hair which was used as a binder.

Since 1829 when John Hogshead, Sr., and his children (heirs of John Francis) sold it to Martin Coyner, it has been owned by David Bell and his sons, John and James. Heirs of James Bell sold it in 1884 to Samuel Driver. As a result of a suit in chancery, it was sold in 1894 to B. M. Huffman and in 1898 from Huffman to William H. Hotinger. In 1924, the widow of William Hotinger sold it to W. F. Simmons, grandfather of Mr. Wagner.

Maple Rest, Route 613, Glade Road, north of Springhill—Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Shoemaker, newcomers to Augusta County from Richmond, this is the original James Bell land purchased in 1746.

The house is of frame construction—contains 10 rooms, 5 fireplaces. 2 rooms and the entrance hall have original floors—the windows have original panes.

Land tax records of 1840 show that in that year the land tax jumped from 50 cents upward, thus dating the probable construction of the house.

This home remained in the Bell family until July 1970 when it was sold by H. B. Bell to Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker.

Mossy Creek, Old School, home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bowers.

This charming one story brick home is the other remaining structure of once flourishing Mossy Creek. This was the site of Mossy Creek Academy founded by Jed Hotchkiss in 1849. The Augusta County Census of 1850 shows him to be resident in the neighborhood.

Serving as headmaster of the academy for 10 years, he then came into Staunton to practice engineering in 1859.

During the Civil War, the school was used as a hospital, and after 1865, was rebuilt as a 2 room school.

In 1929, it was sold to Charles Albee for \$600. In 1934, Captain Wiener of Bridgewater made it into a dwelling. Since 1934, Frances Miller and James Smith have owned it; since 1960 Mr. and Mrs. Bowers have made their home here. It is a lovely home in a lovely setting, containing 5 rooms downstairs, with the addition last year of 2 bedrooms and a bath upstairs. This was accomplished without disturbing the exterior at all.

Springdale Farm, Route 608, between Springhill and Moscow—Owned presently by James B. Epling of Manassas, Virginia.

This home was built prior to 1840 by William Howell, whose daughter, Lucy, married Colonel Samuel Anderson East from Rockbridge County.

This is a home of 8 rooms, with center hall and a double front door. It contains original glass in the windows, original locks and keys and floors.

Outbuildings still stand which were the slave quarters and the smokehouse—all of brick.

It was here that the neighbors brought their produce for the trip to the distant markets of Fredericksburg and elsewhere on the other side of the Blue Ridge.

C. Frank Craun, Route 699, just out of Centerville—This is a very old home, built probably by John Landes or one of his children. The date of construction is determined by the date 1844 which is on a downfall preserved by the Crauns and hanging on a wall of their home.

In 1886, Mrs. Craun's grandfather, John Evers, purchased from James Bumgardner, Jr., a part of the William Landes land.

Beginning in 1847, David and William Landes, purchased all the shares of the heirs of John Landes land.

In 1925, Mr. and Mrs. Craun, purchased the land from her father, D. C. Evers.

This house was first log—some of the logs can still be seen—then plaster, then weatherboard, and is now stucco.

Ivy Dell Acres, Route 680, west of Burketown—This home was constructed in 1866 by Martin Orebaugh for \$1500. With wide pine floors, it is a home of some 7 rooms, with solid brick walls and brick cornices. Today it is the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Coffey.

Mr. Newton Shifflett, the former owner, closed the front of the house since there was no longer a road to what was the front entrance. All entry is from the side of the house today. Mr. Shifflett's grandfather helped to build the house in 1866 shortly after the war.

Mr. and Mrs. Coffey have plans ready to be executed that will add to the present charm of this home with a new kitchen and family room as well as the addition of a new porch to emphasize the front of the house as it is known today.

Henry H. Craun Home, Route 680, west of Burketown—This old home was built by Hatch Clarke circa 1819, when he purchased the land from the heirs of John Donaghe.

There are 7 rooms including the kitchen. The walls, 18 inches thick, are 4 bricks wide. There is a secret cellar entered from the cellar steps. The parlor has a handsome carved mantel, panels inset under each of the 4 parlor windows have most unusual oil paintings in black and gold. A graceful fanlight over the parlor door still has the original glass.

Outside, the brick walls of the house are enhanced with brick cornices.

According to the deed books, Hatch Clarke and wife sold to John R. Kagy in 1832. In 1867, John R. Kagy sold to Samuel Frank. Since that time, this farm has been in the same family. Mr. Craun's mother was Luella V. Frank, who was born in this house. Luella Frank inherited it, and after her death, Mr. Craun purchased the shares of the other 8 children.

Sunny Dell Acres, W. A. Quick, Burketown—This columned brick home, as near as can be determined was built on land that was originally owned by Samuel Rankin. In 1878, John Kagey sold it to P. M. Dice and Dr. W. W. Cropp. The Atlas of 1885 Augusta County, shows this property to have been the residence of P. M. Dice at that time.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Quick purchased it in 1945 from Ira Whitmer.

Flora Mount, Route 11, Fort Defiance—This is the home of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Crawford, Jr., located at Fort Defiance. Mr. Crawford represents the 4th generation of his family to live in it.

Known as Flora Mount, it was built originally by Adam Link II, grandson of Matthias Link and the only son of Adam Link. According to the *Link Family*, by Paxson Link, construction was begun in 1836. At that time, it was located far back from the road and west and a little north of Adam Link's home, which Adam II used for business purposes.

The year 1837 brought depression and Adam Link was faced with finishing a house that was reputedly costing \$20,000 to build, but he was successful in completing the home, which is still called Flora Mount.

It is one of the finest examples of late Georgian architecture in Virginia. Bricks were made on the place and laid in Flemish bond. There are 4 rooms up and 4 down of large size. Gables are formed by the chimneys in unusual height and finish. The center hall is 12 feet by 33 feet long. The rafters of the house are pegged. In the center hall, the walls are 2 bricks thick from basement to attic—the outside walls are 3 bricks wide. The house also contains a secret passage—used especially in the Civil War to prevent the Yankees from finding precious personal possessions. Wide pine floors, of boards 18 feet in length are laid over hewed logs. These floors are of perfectly matched hard pine. In the library you can find where a small plug less than a half inch in diameter has been set in one of the boards. Adam Link was away part of one day when this floor was laid, and upon his return found one board with a small knot in it. He ordered the whole floor torn up to the point where a new board could be substituted for the one with the small knot, which was near the center of the room. The builder was as upset as the owner, but for different reasons, of course. A compromise was reached where the knot would be drilled out and a plug inserted with grain showing that matched the board.

Old English locks still in use were brought to Philadelphia and on to Virginia by stage. The stairway is hand carved—on the stair landing an

eagle in gold leaf and bas-relief with wings spread is mounted on the wide walnut facing board which supports the balusters. It is a decoration typical of the Federal period. Hand rail and balusters are distinctively Georgian but somewhat delicate in design.

The mantel in the sitting room is of black Italian marble brought especially for the home, with a table also made of the same marble. Decorative lintels surmount the windows on the first floor, and the fan-shaped entrance is typical of the period and beautifully done. The fireplaces are of Adam design with fluted pilasters. Panelling is all raised and also typical of the period.

Flora Mount has been visited by many architects who have taken away notes and sketches of its numerous distinctive features. It is unfortunate the post-Civil War porch detracts from the pure Georgian lines that originally made the house so beautiful.

Suter Home, Route 11 north near Fort Defiance.

This is the home of Miss Frances Suter and the late D. I. and Elizabeth Suter, purchased about 1920. The house was remodeled in 1942.

The old barn with hand hewn timbers was burned during the Civil War. The original house, prior to 1942, was stucco, with the walls filled with brick noggin; stone chimneys and foundation; hand hewn timbers put together with mortise and tennon joints and wooden pins. Nails, two panel colonial doors with wooden pins, fireplaces, two pine mantel pieces are now in the home of Beverly W. Suter. Wide pine floors, never failing limestone spring near by are also parts of the charm of this home.

Deed records in the Augusta County Clerk's Office show that this was the property of Dr. James Allen who died in 1847, and who had been an elder of Old Stone Church for more than 40 years.

Parkins Place, Highway 11 north.

Down the road apiece from Flora Mount and the Suter home, is the Parkins place, now owned by Mr. Cline. It is over 200 years old in part. The front was originally logs. William B. Crawford, Jr., says that the fireplace in this old house is the only one in front of which he could ever get warm without roasting one part at a time.

Allen Home, Route 11 north at Middle River.

Much information is found on this historic home of Augusta County in Dr. John W. Wayland's *Historic Homes of Northern Virginia*. "In the early part of the 19th century it was the home of James Allen and his wife, Elizabeth Tate, and their family." "It stands on the northwest side of the Valley Pike and on the northeast bank of Middle River," opposite what used to be Bowling's Mill and before that was Cline's Mill.

In 1824, James and Elizabeth Allen moved to Michigan with their son's wife, Ann Barry McCue Allen, who had married John Allen, a widower in 1821. It was for Ann Barry Allen, that the city of Ann Arbor received its name.

After leaving the Allen family, the property came into possession of Samuel Cline. By 1885, it was in the hands of the Bolens (Bowlings). It was in this home that General Sheridan stayed in the north bedroom during the Civil War—choosing that room so he could watch the soldiers come

down the pike. In recent years, after the death of Mr. Harry Bowling, his widow, Mrs. Kate Hildebrand Bowling sold it in 1948. Mr. Harry Bowling was the son of Andrew Bowling who bought it from the Samuel Cline family. Today it is occupied by Mr. William Breeden.

#### BEVERLEY MANOR—STAUNTON

Catlett House—310 East Beverley.

Originally the property extended from Coalter Street to Braxton Alley. Around 1914 McChesney Goodall lived here. Later the house was purchased from his heirs by General and Mrs. A. A. Sproul who are the present owners. The house has 3½ floors; the sub-basement housed the slaves. A large basement room was originally the kitchen. In it is an unusual dresser with Queen Anne legs, over 300 years old, brought from England. A choice Adams side board is in the dining room. The library also has charm.

#### Recollections of Mrs. Robert Morris Armistead

Built circa mid-19th century—date and builder can be authenticated only by Court House deed and/or Jed Hotchkiss map—on lot that stretched from Coalter to Braxton Alley and possibly at least as far as halfway down to Kalorama Street—the Lambert house on the east side of South Coalter being, I imagine, at least nearly that old. Miss Annabelle Lambert could brief you on that. Its builder or earlier occupant (again verification) was Nathaniel Catlett but again I cannot say how long was his occupancy. Around 1907/8/9 it was occupied by Prof. Schmidt, an old German professor of music at Mary Baldwin Seminary and about 1909 or 10 it was gutted by fire leaving, however, the four walls standing. That was on a Friday following Thanksgiving at about noon and I remember well watching it, along with the rest of the East Beverley Street children fresh out of school, sitting on the low stone wall that then surrounded the three vacant lots that are now occupied by the Galbraiths (313), the Frank Pancakes (305) and the stucco house on the corner of N. Coalter and E. Beverley. When rebuilt the property was bought by McChesney Goodall whose family occupied it until the death of Mr. and Mrs. Goodall and the subsequent sale to Gen. A. A. Sproul, whose renovations included the entire change of facade from the conventional 4-pillared small porch, so familiar throughout the city and county among the late 18th and early 19th century houses, to the impressive and formal face it turns to the public today.

When Mr. Catlett's son, Nathaniel, Jr., was married to Miss Betty ..... in 18....., the elder Catlett built in his side yard the lovely little brick house for him and his bride and, as children, we knew it as "the Bride's House." There they bore 3 children. One was Dr. Breckenridge Catlett who married Miss Elizabeth Michie of Charlottesville, and became known as one of Staunton's most beloved physicians, dying in the early 1930's, as I recall. He had one son, Clay Michie Catlett whose widow, Ann, lives now at Dr. Catlett's home, 208 E. Beverley, which was built at the time of their marriage in the late 1890's, I would say. The Bride's House was occupied by Nathaniel Catlett, Jr.'s, family until the early 1920's. His widow, Miss Betty as everyone knew her—a rotund and

jolly old lady, always wearing widow's weeds and a small white, ruched cap, took in very select boarders from the time I can remember, 1904 on—including, I remember, Mrs. Robert Daniel and her son, Robert, a survivor of the Titanic, and every summer her German speaking relatives, Mrs. Edward Robertson and children, Lewis and Nat, on their annual summer vacation from Germany where Mr. Robertson was a cotton broker out of South Carolina until, overwhelmed by World War I, when they came permanently to Staunton. On Miss Betty's death the house was bought by the newly wed Herbert McKelden Smiths and there Dr. McKelden Smith was born. There, too, the facade was changed from a small 2-pillar porch to the present lovely stoop, evidences of Mrs. Smith's taste. When the Smiths moved into their newly completed "Waverley" at the end of Sherwood Avenue in the early 1920's, Mr. Charles M. East (Sara Nutt's father) purchased the property, their former home a small red brick, jewel of a 2-columned 3-story house having been bought and razed for the erection of the Woodward Apartments, corner of Market and E. Beverley.

#### STAUNTON

East House, East Beverley Street

This house was given as a wedding present to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert McKelden Smith by her father, and is the birthplace of Dr. McKelden Smith. Now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nutt, Jr., it is being currently rented.

Beverley, Home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Nutt, Jr., 324 East Beverley.

The land was acquired from Thomas J. Michie in 1848, sold to Claiborne Rice Mason, famous as the bridge builder for Stonewall Jackson, who ended his days as the owner of Wheatlands near Swoope. Later it was purchased by William G. Harmon and H. W. Harmon who sold it in 1868 to John Echols. Twenty years later it was bought by Ida F. Hudson and in 1890 by Arista Hoge. In 1893, A. C. Braxton purchased the house for his mother, Mrs. Tomlin Braxton. It was like a small plantation with a boardwalk to the stable; a wood house, a smoke house, ice house, apple orchard, flower and vegetable gardens, croquet area and tennis court.

After the death of Judge Henry W. Holt, it was inherited by a daughter, and in 1951 was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Nutt, Jr., the present owners.

Of Federal design, there was a triple Jeffersonian window in the living room which was later altered. Mantels brought from the Middlebrook area, in the living and dining rooms are older than the house. A back porch overlooks this lovely garden.

#### Recollections of Mrs. Robert Morris Armistead

Once "Elm Terrace" is now called "Beverley."

Land reaching from Braxton Alley to E. Beverley was bought by Thomas Michie during the years 1847 and 48, and sold ("all lots, houses, etc.") to Thomas J. Michie and wife Eliza, the same year. Who built 324 is not stated but I have always understood that it was C. H. Mason to whom Michie sold the land. An engineer of some stature, it would



seem logical he would want to build himself. In 1868 Mason sold to Gen. John Echols who, in 1888, sold to one Ida F. Hudson who, in turn in 1890 sold to Arista Hoge. In 1893 my uncle, Alan Caperton Braxton, of "Chericoke," King William Co., Va., came here to practice law and bought the property for his recently widowed mother, Mrs. Tomlin Braxton who lived there until her death in 1904 or 05, when it was inherited by her daughter, the wife of Judge Henry Winston Holt, who lived there until Judge Holt's death circa 1951. The property was then bought by Joseph R. Nutt, Jr., of Cleveland, Ohio, who has occupied it ever since and who did this research which I am quoting. The place, as I knew it in 1904 and on, extended from Braxton Alley to 340 East Beverley in front but as far west and south as the V.S.D.B. grounds, behind the shallower lots further east on the street. Behind the house were two steep terraces, which gave it its name which was rarely used, with broad lawns at the foot of each on the east side of the central dividing walk. The top lawn was for croquet and was bordered, as was the walk, with roses. The lower lawn was a grass tennis court, the walk a grape arbor and the lower side flanked by a honeysuckle hedge below which were tender fruit trees, apricots, etc., and then the fence around the orchard which occupied all of the land reaching to the V.S.D.B. grounds. The west side of the central walk was a lawn on the upper reaches and a vegetable garden on the bottom level and was bound on the west by a box hedge which separated the yard from the service walk that ran behind it from the kitchen yard (house level) to the stable yard, a western extension of the orchard. Along this walk was the coal and wood house, then the cold frames for winter lettuce and violets, the tool house, the smoke house and finally the ice-house and then the cobbled stable yard. The western wing was originally the outdoor kitchen and boasted large Dutch ovens on either side of the fireplace but in my childhood that was the servant's room, a "modern" kitchen was built above it and all connected with the main house by a passage way as it remains today.

On the eastern side (now 332) a steep bank fell to the lower or second level, shaded by locusts and carpeted with violets and daffodils—Violet Bank to us. The lower level was another vegetable garden and it in turn fell away in four shallow steps to the orchard's east reaches, which could be entered via stile. The shallow levels were also gardens, corn in one, potatoes in another, tomatoes in a third, I recall, and were separated by small fruits, peaches and pears on the first, currant and gooseberries and raspberries, black and red, making the lower divisions.

Funkhouser House, 422 East Beverley Street

A Mr. Funkhouser built this house circa 1850. His daughter, Mrs. Mary Woodward Williams, resided here until her death in 1960 when it was purchased by Mr. William Goodloe. The present owners are Dr. and Mrs. Austin Chinn.

Imported antique china decorates the graceful mantels. In the hall is an unusual marquetry side board and matching chair. At the end of the hall a beautiful old gaslight chandelier has been skillfully electrified.

Berkeley House, 512 East Beverley Street

In the early years, this frame house near the gate of VSDB was occupied by Francis Berkeley. A later owner, Alfred Jaffe, a German,

who married a girl from this area, M. Fontaine Ranson, took his bride to Germany on their honeymoon. They brought back a tree from the Black Forest which was planted in the front yard. During the First World War, Mr. Jaffe, grieving over the conflict, actually died of a broken heart. The property was sold to the Brents in 1925, and later was bought by Mrs. William A. Harnsberger who renovated the house and removed the old tree to add a garage. Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Tanner are the present owners. This old cast iron shield covering the fireplace has the figure of a monk in the center.

Recollections of Mrs. Robert Morris Armistead

"The Francis Berkeley house is at the end of East Beverley (512). The charm of its Hunter-house type of architecture was altered by the same Mrs. Harnsberger who dug up the Black Forest tree when she built her garage. The tree was in the BACK yard, there being practically no front. The tiny porch could and did hold two built in benches, however, and these frequently, to the distress of the occupant, were laden with packages of various sizes, weights and contents from laundry to groceries, awaiting the friendly smalltown pick-up service that went along with the street car service. It was the line's dead end and, unfenced, it offered marvelous baggage room facilities. The name Jaffe, incidentally, is pronounced Jaf—fay."

The Bagby House, 10 Bagby Street

According to the Courthouse records, this brick house was built in 1862 by Mr. Bagby, who was with the C and O Railroad. He owned the land from Williams Street to North Augusta. Restoration of the existing building was done by the owners who sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. Harry P. Blackburn, Jr., about 8 years ago.

Of the four original fireplaces, two have been closed up to provide extra closet space. The floors are original pine, the twelve inch walls, solid brick. In one bedroom is a massive bed over 200 years old, and in another bedroom a beautiful tear drop spool bed.

The Bagby Overseer's house, 20 Bagby Street

Next door to the Bagby house is a small brick house, of about the same vintage, which was probably the overseer's home. There was an eight foot chimney in the center of the house and a corner fireplace in the dining room, but these have both been closed and covered. The stairway to the second floor was originally a ladder at one end of the hall. A stairway was added later. Here is one of the bedrooms.

Mrs. Taylor Boxley is the present owner.

The Fulton House, 164 North Coalter

A picture of this home appears also in the book by Armistead C. Gordon on Staunton, mentioned previously, on page 56. The house was built by the great grandfather of Mr. Rodes Nelson. Mr. William J. Nelson occupied it for many years, after which it was the residence of Capt. T. C. Morton. In 1899, it was sold to the Fulton family. The property extends from North Coalter to the boundary of SMA. Many years ago there was a dense woods south to the curve of the street near Mary Baldwin College.

Speaking tubes which were used to communicate with servants, have been removed, but an old gas fixture still remains in one of the bedrooms. The Misses Nancy and Ruth Fulton are the present owners.

The Loeb House, 204 North Coalter Street.

For many years it was known as the Loeb House. Mr. Loeb owned a local department store on the corner of New and Beverley Streets, (pictured on page 7 of the book, *Staunton, Virginia—Its Past, Present and Future*, by Armistead C. Gordon). The large brick Victorian house with turrets was built about 100 years ago.

About 1914, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelious Bowman and their children lived here. Later Staunton Military Academy purchased the house from Mr. Bowman and it was used during World War II as barracks for 40 boys. Later, it became the home of the Superintendent, and is now a faculty residence, with two apartments.

Lt. Col. and Mrs. Thomas L. Phillips occupy the Kable Street apartment, and the Edward L. Dodge family the Coalter Street apartment.

Edge Hill, 1417 North Augusta

Built circa 1850, originally this was a white painted brick house surrounded by a spiked fence situated on the northeast corner of Beverley and Lewis Streets. One of the early owners was William Kinney who married Rebecca Porterfield.

As the business district started to grow in that area, Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Hinkel, who had bought the house, decided to have it moved. It was dismantled brick by brick in 1928 and reassembled on its present location, with occupancy in 1930.

At the death of Mr. Hinkel and his wife, in 1951 the house was inherited by Mrs. T. R. Nelson. Since that time the house has again changed hands and is currently being rented.

Stuart House, 120 Church Street

The home of Mrs. Peyton Cochran is historic Stuart House. Just right of the front door is a plaque given by the Beverley Manor Chapter, DAR, which relates some of the history of this home. Built in 1791 from plans drawn by Thomas Jefferson for Archibald Stuart, soldier of the Revolution and a member of the Virginia Convention of 1788, it was his home until his death in 1832. The smaller brick house to the right was the law office of Judge Stuart.

The original house had an entrance hall and six rooms. The kitchen was a small separate building. Many of the old window panes are still in evidence. An addition was built in 1842, adding a sitting room, writing room, two bedrooms and three baths. In the hall is a lovely grouping of two antique Shearton chairs. The handcarving above the doorway represents the Household Flame of Welcome, and also appears over the mantels. Above the living room fireplace is a portrait of Judge Archibald Stuart and in the adjoining drawing room is a portrait of his son, Alexander Hugh Holmes Stuart, who was also prominent in government and politics. Here is a spacious, attractive guest bedroom. Down the hall, beside the door to the attic is a small round hole for the convenience of the family cat to search for mice in the loft.

Under the floorboards, the family silver was hidden during the Civil War. Thomas Jefferson always used this guest room when he visited Judge Stuart.

Knopp Home, 865 Middlebrook Avenue

This is a handsome, pillared, three story brick house built circa 1812. There is a complete basement, where the kitchen was once located. Included in the outbuildings were a barn and a smoke house. The latter, with thick brick walls, had wires and hooks for the meat to be hung which were still in evidence when Mr. George Knopp bought the property 36 years ago.

The original acreage extended to Haile Place and Stack Street. Stack Street was named after the first owners who came here from Ireland.

Another owner was Dr. S. P. Hite who never actually practiced medicine, but was the originator of a special remedy named Hites Pain Cure. His work room was a small, separate, wooden frame building, behind the big house. One of the unusual features of this house is the delicate, highly glossed, yellow pine circular stairway. The wood was probably cut locally. From a grilled upstairs front balcony, there is a clear view of downtown Staunton.

Willoughby, Middlebrook Avenue

The land on which Willoughby stands was part of a patent in 1736 known as Beverley Manor, granted to William Beverley of Essex County. 300 acres were sold to James Miller, a tailor and constable of Staunton.

The white frame house was built in 1749 and sold in 1754 to Israel Christian, a member of the House of Burgesses in 1759 and 1761, and believed to have been a nephew of Gilbert Christian, progenitor of the Augusta County Christian family. Israel Christian was the founder of Fincastle and Christiansburg.

There have been sixteen owners of this property including the present owner, Mr. Mayo Cabell. The late Mrs. Cabell was Anne Haile, whose ancestor, Columbus Haile, from Alabama, bought the house in 1867. There were two other owners before the property returned to the Haile family in 1903. The colonial mansion, completely modernized, has eighteen rooms and five baths; a tenant house, large barn, shed and garages. "Willoughby" has also been known as Walnut Hills (circa 1770); Bearwallow (circa 1810); Winter Green (circa 1870); Buckeye Stock Farms (circa 1894) and more recently Willoughby.

Now a cozy kitchen-dining area, this was once the main kitchen. With wall paper over 100 years old, the living room was called the Red Room. Extending from the Red Room is a large dining room. The fireplace has an unusual mantel and there is a similar one in an upstairs bedroom.

Recollections of Mrs. Robert Morris Armistead

As recorded for me by the late Columbus Haile, Jr.:

1. 300 acres, part of William Beverley Patent of 1736. House built in 1749.
2. Sold to James Miller, tailor and constable, of Staunton, 5/27/-1751.



3. Sold to Israel Christian, Irish extraction, nephew of Gilbert Christian who came to Augusta County in 1732, giving his name to Christian's Creek; delegate to House of Burgesses 1759 and 61; founded taverns in Fincastle and Christiansburg; married Patrick Henry's sister.
4. Sold to Wm. Fleming (9/23/1793), Scotch born; MD from Edinburgh; naval surgeon; emigrated in 1755; Capt. under Col. Stephen Adams; stationed in Staunton and married Israel Christian's daughter, Ann; vestryman of Augusta Parish, 1764-69; practiced as far afield as Botetourt where he was one of that County's first Justices of the Peace; commanded Botetourt regiment at Point Pleasant, wounded, but served on Privy Council and was member of First Continental Congress, only member west of Blue Ridge; member of Governor's Council and Acting Governor in 1781 in Jefferson's temporary absence and later in same capacity when House of Burgesses met in Staunton at Trinity, 1781; land com. in Kentucky where a county is named for him and died at his last home "Belmont," near Roanoke, 1795.
5. Sold Willoughby, then known as "Walnut Hills," in 8/18/1767 to Robert Read, tavern keeper, Irish extraction; wed Margaret Cunningham, born in frame house, corner Augusta and Irish Alley, oldest house in Staunton until torn down (Lot#1 in original plat of town 1747) for present brick structure (Reid Market, 1956).
6. Sold to Chapman Johnson, from Louisa County, 10/30/1810; graduate William and Mary, 1802; practiced law in Staunton; served as Capt. of Volunteer Company in War of 1812; Aide to Capt. Jas. Breckenridge; state senator, 1805-31; leader of White Basis Party, attending State Convention, 1829-30; Mayor of Staunton 1868; with Jno. Coalter, Gen. Jno. Brown, Chancellor, was on Madison Com; opposing Jno. Kinney, Jas. Cochran, David Parry and Micajah Coalter Monroe Com.; moved to new home, "Bear Wallow," Springhill Road, after conveying Willoughby for \$1 and love to his son, William Boswell Johnson, 10/7/45, who sold to
7. Andrew B. Irrick, 9/20/1850 for \$10,000. Then to
8. Richard Summerson, 6/24/1854 for \$17,000. Then to
9. Hugh W. Sheffey, 3/1/1860 for \$18,650. Then to
10. Columbus Haile, 11/22/1867, who moved here from South Carolina via Alabama where he was married and a cotton planter. Came here after abolition and changed name to "Wintergreen." Then to
11. Thomas Kendall Menefee, Captain in Confederate Army and an engineer, 12/22/1871. He built the local reservoir, as is recorded on the granite step, one of those leading up to the reservoir before it was filled and made into a park in the 1950's (?) and now in storage at the City Hall. Then to
12. William H. Brew from Cleveland, 12/7/94, a wealthy horseman, who renamed the farm "Buckeye Stock Farms" and raised Hambeltonians. Built race track oval along both banks of Lewis Creek

with low arched stone bridges at either end and it was their damming of flotsam that caused the flood of 1898. He built the present additions to the original house but, after the flood losses, the place deteriorated and was sold back to

13. Mrs. Columbus Haile in 8/1/1893. It again became Willoughby and was eventually
14. sold to her son, Columbus Haile, Jr., in 2/1/1946 for love & consideration. It was inherited by his daughter, Ann, whose widower
15. Mayo Cabell is the present owner and occupant.

This information too, I happen to have as my mother, Estanola Menefee, was born there.

### Montgomery Hall

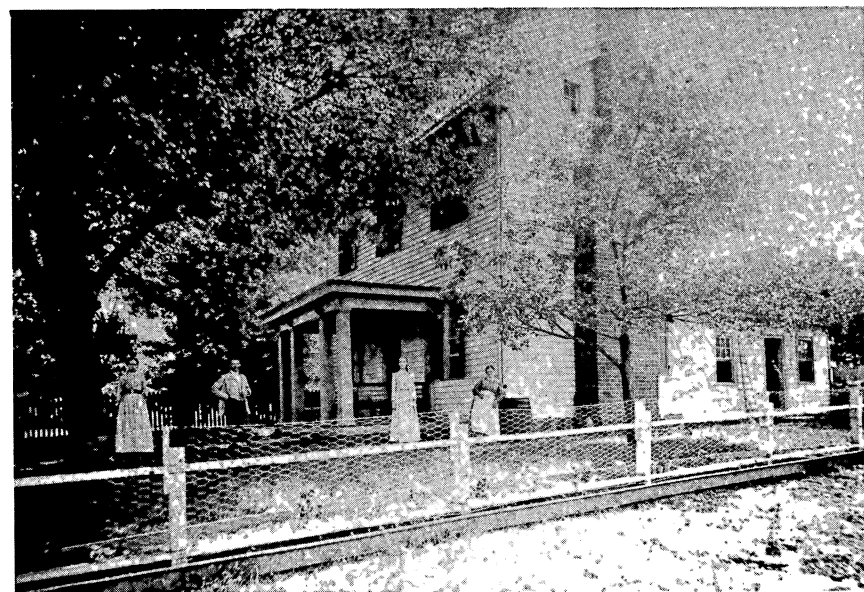
Formerly the Henry Peck home, the house was built in 1820 by John Howe Peyton, statesman and jurist of Staunton, whose second wife was Ann Montgomery Lewis, daughter of Major John Lewis of Monroe County, and of the Augusta County Lewis family.

This old mansion was injured by fire in 1910 or thereabouts, but was restored. In 1937, it was the home of Mr. A. C. Thomas. Today it is a city park of Staunton, located on the southwest side of the city, and is approached by Montgomery Avenue.

### Selma, 920 Selma Blvd.

Selma, a Grecian Revival, three-storied brick manor house, was probably built by Simpson F. Taylor, son-in-law of Major Dowell of Albemarle County, who owned a well-known forge south of Waynesboro. The first known record is that of 1856 when it was purchased by Col. Hierome L. Opie.

During the first year of the Civil War, Mrs. Opie, who had been widowed, sold it. Another owner of prominence, was Judge John Hendren, son of the famous Presbyterian minister of Mossy Creek and Union Presbyterian Churches. Identical side-wings were built about thirty years later. After changing hands several times, it was purchased in 1927 by Dr. Clarence P. Obenschain, father of the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Richard O. Obenschain. The house has twenty rooms, several of which have been made into apartments. Each room has its own fireplace. The parlor fireplace, with a five foot mantel, is carved with a formal Grecian motif. Above it is a portrait of John Harvey McDowell, great-grandfather of Mrs. Obenschain. Another attractive feature of the parlor is the oval handpainted cherubic ceiling.



The Plumb House. An old picture circa 1880's, side view of residence.

*Copied by Alwood Studio  
Used by permission of Plumb family.*

## The Plumb House

Waynesboro, Virginia

by Calder Loth

Architectural Historian Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

The Plumb House on West Main Street is one of the handful of ante bellum structures remaining in Waynesboro. A remarkably unaltered survival, the old house testifies to the early origins of this modern-appearing community. Neither the exact construction date nor the builder is known, but architectural evidence indicates that the house was put up near the first decade of the nineteenth century. The Plumb family has owned and occupied the place since the 1820's, making it perhaps the oldest continuous family ownership of a house in Waynesboro.

The two-story structure is covered by a gable roof and is set on an uncoursed rubble limestone foundation. It is believed that the basic construction of the house is log, but all the wall framing is hidden by modern asbestos shingles. At either end of the house is a tall exterior chimney. The east chimney is original to the house and is a very interesting example of early Valley brickwork. Similar to chimneys on Tidewater colonial houses, the Plumb House chimney is laid in Flemish bond with queen closers at the end of each course. The ends of the bricks or headers are all glazed in the eighteenth century manner, and make a checker-board pattern on the breast. This glaze was achieved by placing the ends of the bricks closest to the fire when they were burnt in the kiln. The use of glazed headers, as in the Plumb House, was extremely rare in early Valley construction and only a few examples are known to survive. The chimney on the house's west end appears to be a mid-nineteenth century replacement of the original since it is laid in common bond and contains smaller bricks. The house retains much of its old window sash, and that on the main part is surrounded by fine architrave moldings. The small front porch is a mid-nineteenth century addition and is embellished with Italianate-style brackets.

The architectural significance of the Plumb House is greatly enhanced by the almost wholly intact original interior woodwork. The east or "best" room is remarkably sophisticated, having flat paneled wainscoting on all four walls. On the east wall is an

extraordinary Federal mantel, comparable in quality to ones found in the finest Federal houses of Richmond or Alexandria. It features a complex series of advanced and recessed moldings, carved rosettes, and stop-fluted Doric pilasters. It is said that its fireplace originally could be fed by inserting a log through a passage from the corner of the rear wall to side of the fireplace.

The narrow center hall of the Plumb House is decorated with a simple chair rail and baseboard. At the rear of the hall is a very fine original chevron batten door. This type of door is typical of early Valley houses of both English and German style construction. Towards the front of the hall is a door opening onto a winding enclosed stair. This stair projects into the "best" room, and in its side is covered by carefully fitted vertical boards. Beneath the stair is a small door leading to a wood closet. On the west side of the hall is a more simply trimmed room, featuring a plain mantel with a projecting molded shelf similar in style to many examples in Williamsburg. Behind this room is an early one-story rear ell containing a back hall and kitchen. The interior of the house has a number of early pieces of furniture, some of which were perhaps locally crafted. Some of the smaller items such as crystal, china, and books were brought by the owner's ancestors from England. In the basement can be seen a series of half logs that form the floor joists. The basement entrance retains its original heavy batten door hung with long wrought-iron hinges.

In the rear of the house can be seen traces of brick paving that in earlier years formed a kitchen court. The original exterior kitchen and smokehouse have been much remodeled, but the large kitchen fireplace and some of the old timbers can still be seen. The property once had other outbuildings as indicated by old photographs in the possession of the owner, but these have disappeared. An interesting relic in the house's front yard is the old limestone stepping stone removed when the part of Main Street immediately in front of the house was first paved.

The old Plumb House is probably the best preserved Federal house in Waynesboro and certainly the most interesting.

According to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Plumb, who presently own and occupy the house, the property has been held since 1826 by four successive generations of the Plumb family, commencing with Francis Plumb, a copperplate printer of Merton in the Parish of Mitcham, County Surrey, England, who left England on July 22, 1826, landed in Philadelphia on August 29 of the

same year, stopped briefly in Richmond, and some months later moved to Waynesboro and purchased the house. His children were Alfred Plumb (1834-1918), John Calvin Plumb, who died young, and Henry Plumb, who was killed in the Second Battle of Manassas.

Alfred Plumb inherited the family home from his father and lived there throughout his life, conducting a successful slaughter house to the rear of the property which was then joined by woods and constituted the outskirts of town. His wife was Mary Johnson, who died in 1914, and their children were John, Edward, Alfred, William, Charles, and Willie Ann.

Miss Willie Ann Plumb (1872-1857) was the third generation of the family to own and occupy the house. She devised it to her nephew, the present owner, who has lived there since the death of his mother when he was seven months old.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Recollections of Gladys B. Clem

(Having been born and raised in Waynesboro and living only a short distance from the Plumb home [1012 West Main Street], I remember most of the family quite well.

Miss Willie Ann Plumb (1872-1957) was the third generation of the family to own and occupy the house. She devised it to her nephew, the present owner, who has lived there since the death of his mother when he was seven months old.

Mr. "Al" Plumb, as he was known, was a man of medium height and wore a brown beard. In a wide, soft brimmed hat, his trousers tucked into high leather boots and carrying a staff, he was a familiar figure in the Waynesboro of another day. Only on Sunday did he dress otherwise. Mrs. Plumb was small, white haired and a wonderful cookie maker!

Mr. and Mrs. John Plumb lived just a few doors from my home on Maple Avenue. Having no children of their own, I was there often. Mrs. Plumb was in charge of the children's department of the Methodist Sunday School. Through her untiring efforts, extending over many years, Sunday School rooms were added to the Main Street Methodist Church, the only one of this denomination in Waynesboro at that time. Mr. Plumb was an orchardist and farmer, raising large crops of Johnson Winter apples, a popular variety then—"sideways apples" the children called them owing to their peculiar shape.

Mr. Will Plumb, a widower, lived in one of the southern states, but always returned to Waynesboro each summer for a visit. The other two sons, Edward and Alfred, I barely remember. Mr. Charlie Plumb, the youngest son, was a R.F.D. mail carrier for many years.

Willie Ann, "Miss Willie," was a pretty dark eyed young woman, as a friend of my parents, I saw her often. She had a lovely flower garden in the lot on the east side of the house, from which she supplied the church, the sick and shut-ins throughout the summer months. My father's birthday was in February and freezias were his favorite flower. I remember Miss Willie usually sent him a spray of these delicate blossoms for the occasion.

As a small child, it was always a pleasure to go with my mother to visit the Plumbs, even if the day was overly warm, the house was always cool—I was always told it was owing to its log construction, which seemed quite fascinating to me. Passing through the back hall door, one stepped out on a covered area way. A louvered wooden screen, that let in the air but prevented the rain was divided, I think, in three sections, forming the east side of the inclosure. Both kitchen and dining rooms opened to it from the west side. The floor was brick and laid in a different design, from which I was accustomed to seeing. The back yard was mostly bricked, also. A knarled old apple tree provided a shady and an inviting place to play. Several steps lead up into the summer kitchen in the back yard, but this was one place you kept away from on a hot day, with the iron stove going full blast cooking "company dinner."

## THE OLDEST RESIDENT

Seventy-seven Years of Life in Staunton

(From the Staunton *Vindicator* of Friday, February 4, 1887)

Recollections of the Venerable George Fuller, Staunton's Octogenarian

In an unpretentious frame house on North Augusta street lives George W. Fuller, Esq., the oldest resident of Staunton. Seventy-five years ago he lived in a building only two doors south of it, and looking out on Staunton saw nothing but woods until the corner of Augusta and Frederick was reached, and nothing but woods north and east of him. From the foot of that street he had seen leave a little village of eight hundred inhabitants, a company of troops to fight the British, Presidents who were travelling by . . . . . undecipherable . . . . .

He is a kindly mannered old gentleman of eighty-four, with good eyesight, perfect hearing and as active as the general run of men of fifty. His hair is white and thin, but his carriage is erect. A representative of the *VINDICATOR* called on him Monday to get some account of the olden times from one who lived in them, and to whom Providence had spared a wonderful memory by which he is enabled to live them over again. He suggested that one who had passed so many years must have something to tell the world that would interest the present generation.

"Yes," said Mr. Fuller, "we are right old in this house. I was just thinking, sitting here this morning, that the united ages of three of us makes two hundred and fifty-one years. There is my sister, Miss Sallie Fuller, who is eighty-eight, myself eighty-four, and my wife seventy-nine. I am, I think, the oldest resident of Staunton. I came here in 1810. The next oldest resident is Mr. Moffett Cochran, who came here in 1814. I was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1803 and my father came here October 15, 1810.

"How came your Father to cross the mountain to Staunton?"

### GEN. WASHINGTON INTERESTED IN EDUCATION

"Well, my father, who was born in Ireland, came to Fredericksburg in 1781, as a teacher, at the request of General Washington. Parson John Ryan, an Episcopal clergyman, came from



Miss Sallie Fuller, sister of George Fuller, mentioned in news article.  
Picture credit: "150 Years of Methodism in Staunton," Clem

Ireland at the same time with him on the same errand. It came through Col. Fitzgerald, an Irishman who was on Gen. Washington's staff, and who was requested by the General to write to Ireland for a linguist and a mathematician to teach school at Fredericksburg. Parson Ryan was a linguist and my father a teacher of mathematics and they both came over . . . . . words undecipherable . . . . . a letter was sent to him by Judge Stuart, Chapman Johnson and Mr. Brown, Trustees of the Staunton Academy to come to Staunton and take charge of a department in that school. My father accepted the offer. Parson Calhoun, a Presbyterian, was also teaching in the Academy at that time. Our family got here in the fall of 1810 and rented a red house which stood opposite where Wm. A. Burke now lives on Frederick Street where Dr. H. H. Henkel has built. The house was rented from Jos. Bell, the grandfather of Henderson M. Bell."

"It was a pretty dull little town then, I suppose, Mr. Fuller?"

"Well it was little—it had only about eight hundred inhabitants living in it then, but it was not always dull. The most exciting thing I remember was:

#### THE NEWS OF THE BURNING OF WASHINGTON CITY IN THE WAR OF 1812

The news got here on a Sunday morning and a printer named Peter Duval, who had an office where the N. B. Hendry building now stands on Augusta Street, got out an extra and sent it around. The town went wild and the people gathered in the streets. In less than a hour a military company was formed to start for Norfolk. Three companies were formed here for the war. John Sowers was the Captain of the Artillery company, and Billy Young, the jeweler, was the first Lieutenant. Chris Morris, who kept a dry goods store at what is now the Brandenburg corner, was the Captain of the company of infantry. Besides these there was a horse company. These companies were not . . . . altogether . . . . came into town on hearing the news of the burning of Washington. Besides these troops, who went to Norfolk, some Staunton people were . . . in the regular army for recruiting purposes. Nick Kinney, who was an officer of the regulars, went to Canada. Judge John Kinney (who afterwards tried John Brown's comrades, Cook, Coppie and Stevens, at Charles-town) also an officer of the regulars, went to Canada. My brother, James Fuller, who was an officer of the regulars, recruited a company in Greenbrier County. That Sunday evening after the

news came, another infantry company was raised of which Chapman Johnson was captain; Briscoe G. Baldwin 1st lieutenant, and Jefferson Stuart orderly sergeant. They started next day for Norfolk and pressed horses into service on which to go. The women worked hard, day and night, making military hunting shirts to put on the troops. They went down to Norfolk, but were discharged by the Governor as their services were not needed. I remember that one of the members was Dr. Wilson, the father of Thomas P. Wilson, a cousin of Bishop Alpheus Wilson of the Methodist Church.

### THE OLD TIME TAVERNS

When I came here, the town lay in what was called the "bottom," that is the level space reaching from the court house to the foot of the hills around. New Street was the street on which nearly all the business was done and the center of business was about where Campbell's barbershop stood. The old Wayne Tavern stood where Loeb Bros. now is; the Eagle Tavern, where the *Spectator* office now is—it was also called McGonegal's Tavern... the Washington Tavern, where the Virginia Hotel now is and the Bell Tavern where Scheffer's saloon now is. The Bell was kept by LaPorte; the Washington by Jack Edmundson, then by George Turner and Tillis and the Wayne was kept by the widow Chambers. The old Valley Tavern, at the northern end of Augusta Street, now McMahan's store, which was built forty-two years ago, is comparatively modern. It was first kept by the Widow Cooper. James Ridgeway and James Paul built it. When the old Eagle was a stage stand it was a great hotel and did a big business. The last man that kept it probably was Maj. Jos. Woodward. It once had nearly all the Valley passengers. In its day the road didn't come in from down the Valley as it does now. It came in by way of where Joseph Ast lives and wound around, coming in by where Dr. McFarland now lives on Coalter Street and down Gospel Hill to the Eagle Hotel. There was another tavern, or wagon stand, kept near Jos. Ast's. It had a bowling alley and was regarded as a place to go outside of town and have an irregular time.

When (Andrew) Jackson came through Staunton on his way to Washington, he stopped at the Washington Tavern. That was before his election in 1826. There was no turn out of the people to see him—they were all Whigs around here. But when Henry

Clay came through here and stopped at the Bell Tavern, it was different; the people crowded there to shake hands with him. I went there to see him.

### THE PAPERS

Among the first publishers I recollect here was Jacob Dietrick, who . . . . . undecipherable . . . . . where . . . . . stands. Charles Rodes published a Whig paper. We had moved, in 1812, to the house next door to where I am living now, and I recollect that Chancellor Brown, the grandfather of Jno. B. Baldwin, used to ride in from his farm and stop at our house and send me down into town to Rhodes' office for his paper. Jimmy Williams, a printer, used to publish a paper called *The Hornet*, in which he attacked everybody and kept the town in hot water. He printed it in a little house on New Street, where Dr. Eichelberger's house now stands. Isaac Collect published a paper called the *Republican*. It was bought by Kenton Harper, who came here from Chambersburg, Pa., in 1820 and changed it into the *Spectator*. Harper loved soldiering and commanded the "Blues" here. When the Mexican War came on he raised a company and went with it.

### POLITICS

In those days the party names were "Federalists," and "Republicans," and party spirit was high enough. On an election day I have seen as many as seven fights on the street alone. The leaders on the Republican side were Judge Baldwin, Chesley Kinney, Jacob Kinney, Judge Stuart, Chapman Johnson, Michael Garber and Breeze and on the Federalist side, Jacob Swoope, John Cowan, Beverley, who owned the Kalorama, and Jacob Peck — Daniel Sheffey, the great lawyer, came here in 1817.

Kenton Harper was the first man to bring out Gen. Harrison for the Presidential nomination. Col. James Crawford, who presided over the convention that nominated Harrison, lived here, and was the greatest speaker I ever heard. It was thought in that day that he would be one of the greatest men in the Union. His widow, a sister of Mrs. John Wayt, died the other day at Mr. H. P. Dickersons. I . . . . . in 1840 and heard Daniel Webster speak ratification meeting... heard Governor James Barbour at same time and I liked him, I thought even better than Webster.



## WHO LIVED IN THE BOTTOM

When I came to Staunton, and for many years after, the town lay in the "bottom." The center of the bottom was the court house, a small building of stone built by Billy Cravens. The new brick court house was not put up until about fifty years ago. It was erected by Alex. Farish of Charlottesville, the brick work being done by Ben. Bagby's father. As I said, New Street was the center of business. Chris Morris had a dry goods and general store at the Brandenburg corner. Nearly all the stores of that day were general and kept something of everything. The Chris Morris I speak of is the same one that raised a company on the Sunday the news came from Washington. Billy White had a store in Court House Alley, and near him, Billy McDowell. Joe Cowan kept on the corner where Honaker's store used to be. Heiskell and Sowers kept where Olivier is, Henry Hartman kept where the Annex is. John Wayt had a store where Hilb and Rutherford used to be, and you had to go up some steps to get in it. Jones kept where Billy Wholey is. At the old Valley Bank on Market and Main Streets Benj. Morris kept. Between there and New Street there was nothing but small stores tailor and other shops. Billy Young, the jeweler, kept a watchmaker's shop back of Cowan's old stand on New Street. Han's Herring had a store back of Young's in Court House Alley, Smith Thompson had a store where Judge Fultz's office is. On Augusta Street at Haines' corner was Mrs. Jane Stuart's dry goods store. She owned the property on which the Staunton Iron Works was later located. Where the Augusta National Bank stands, Judge McDowell had a store. Where Charles Wheat's store now is, Jake Kurtz had a chair factory. He was a most respected man and made his chairs so well that I have some of them in the house now as good as ever. He was the ancestor of all the Kurtz's in Staunton. Smith and Penn kept where Mrs. Walters now is. Along the north side of Main Street from Witz's to Loeb Bros., was then a vacant space occasioned by the burning of the Wayne Tavern and its stables which occupied that ground. Later William Clarke had a store there. James Berry Hill kept a store where Glanke now is. Where the Lutheran now is there was a large frame house. On Augusta Street the houses were nearly all cabins.

"The bottom" was the place for residences as well as business. Chapman Johnson lived where Geo. M. Cochran now has his law office. John H. Peyton, another lawyer, lived where

Hager now is. Capt. Williamson lived on the Brandenburg corner. He married a daughter of Alexander St. Clair.

## THE PROFESSIONAL MEN

The doctors of that day were Addison Waddell, the father of Jos. A. Waddell; Dr. Wm. Boys, afterwards Superintendent of the Asylum; Dr. McIntosh, a Scotchman who lived in the little stone house that Maj. Newton pulled down for his store; Dr. Humphries and Dr. Edrington, who lived on Gospel Hill.

The preachers were Parson Calhoun of the Presbyterians and Dr. King (who was a practicing physician) of the Episcopalians. The two denominations worshipped in the same church, which was owned by the Episcopalians, but did not worship together. It was a plain brick building which stood where Trinity church now stands. The Presbyterians were the larger body and in 1819 (?) they built a church for themselves.

The lawyers I recollect were Chapman Johnson, John H. Peyton, Gen'l. Blackburn (who lived in the present Catlett house on Gospel Hill). Briscoe G. Baldwin, Daniel Sheffey and Jewett Tapp.

## THE AUTHORITIES

Among the city officers in those days Watt Tapp, Clerk of the Corporation; J. H. Peyton, Mayor; John Wayt, also a Mayor, and Alex. Hall, Town Chamberlin. Judge Stuart was the first judge I recollect seeing. Judge Coalter, another judge lived in the county on what was afterwards Judge Fultz's farm. He later moved to a farm on which Witz & Holt's Mill now stands.

## THE LUNATIC ASYLUM

There was a great fight to get the Asylum located here, but we sent heavy men—Daniel Sheffey and Judge Baldwin — to Richmond, and won it. The building was commenced in 1823 or 24, by Geo. Walls of Winchester, contractor.

At the same time there was a strong fight to remove the capital of the State from Richmond to a more central point, and Staunton would probably have gotten it if the removal had been made. She offered the site\*—now occupied by the Virginia Female Institute, for the location of the capitol building.

(\*The site presently the residence of Carter L. Loth and Carl W. Broman. Ed.)

## MAILS AND TRAVEL

When I came here there were, as I said, about eight hundred people here and all who lived around the "bottom" were . . . then Alex. Paris of Charlottesville started a line of stages from here to Richmond. Then Bockett started a line to Winchester, John Wise, a line to Greenbrier, and West, a line to Lexington. The stages were dreadful concerns for comfort, being hard in riding, and in winter the wind blew through them. It took three days to go to Richmond in them. the distance being forty miles a day. There were no relays of horses and the same team that started out of Staunton pulled us into Richmond. We went by the Goochland River road. The first night we spent at Wall's Tavern in Charlottesville, the second at the Widow Tinsley's eleven miles this side of Goochland Court House, and the third night we got into Richmond. The fare was \$12.

"Was there charge for extra baggage, Mr. Fuller?"

"Well, when I went," said Mr. Fuller with a smile, "I didn't have enough baggage to try that question. When I came back from Richmond, I tried it horseback. When I got to Goochland Court House I found the horse I had expected to get had died, so I footed it the remaining ninety miles to Staunton. It took from two or three days to go to Winchester. It would be hard to imagine worse riding than the stages of that day gave you. When I went to Richmond, as we were descending Jefferson mountain to cross the Rivana River on an east Virginia corduroy road, the horses ran off and the short run made me sore from head to foot from jolting."

## OLD RESIDENTS

There is nobody left now that was here when I came. The nearest to it is Moffet Cochran, who came here in 1814, and is still among us. John Wayt who came in 1811, is dead. Capt. Levi Stephenson, who came in 1817, died some time ago. He had . . . establishment and worked . . . afterwards married his sister. Mr. Points was U.S. Marshall for this district under several administrations, both Democratic and Whig. He was beloved by all parties.

## MILITARY COMPANIES

We had two peace military companies that used to parade. One was The Blues, of which Kenton Harper was Captain, the

other was "The Rifles," of which Robert Hemphill was captain and I was lieutenant. Hemphill was later town sheriff.

## AN ENTERPRISING COLORED MAN

One of the largest manufactories in that day was owned by a colored man, Matthew B. Truss. He was a shoemaker and worked about twenty hands. His shop was on the spot now occupied by C. L. Weller's shoe store, on Main Street. He made large quantities of shoes and carried them to the different watering places and around the country generally. He built and owned the lead colored house which Benj. F. Points so long occupied on that spot, and sold it to Points. He was a splendid business man. He was set free by his master, Matthew B. Eagan. His sign was a curiosity and everybody in Staunton remembered it.

As you pass by

On me cast your eye

And if you have any money to spend

Leave it with your friend.

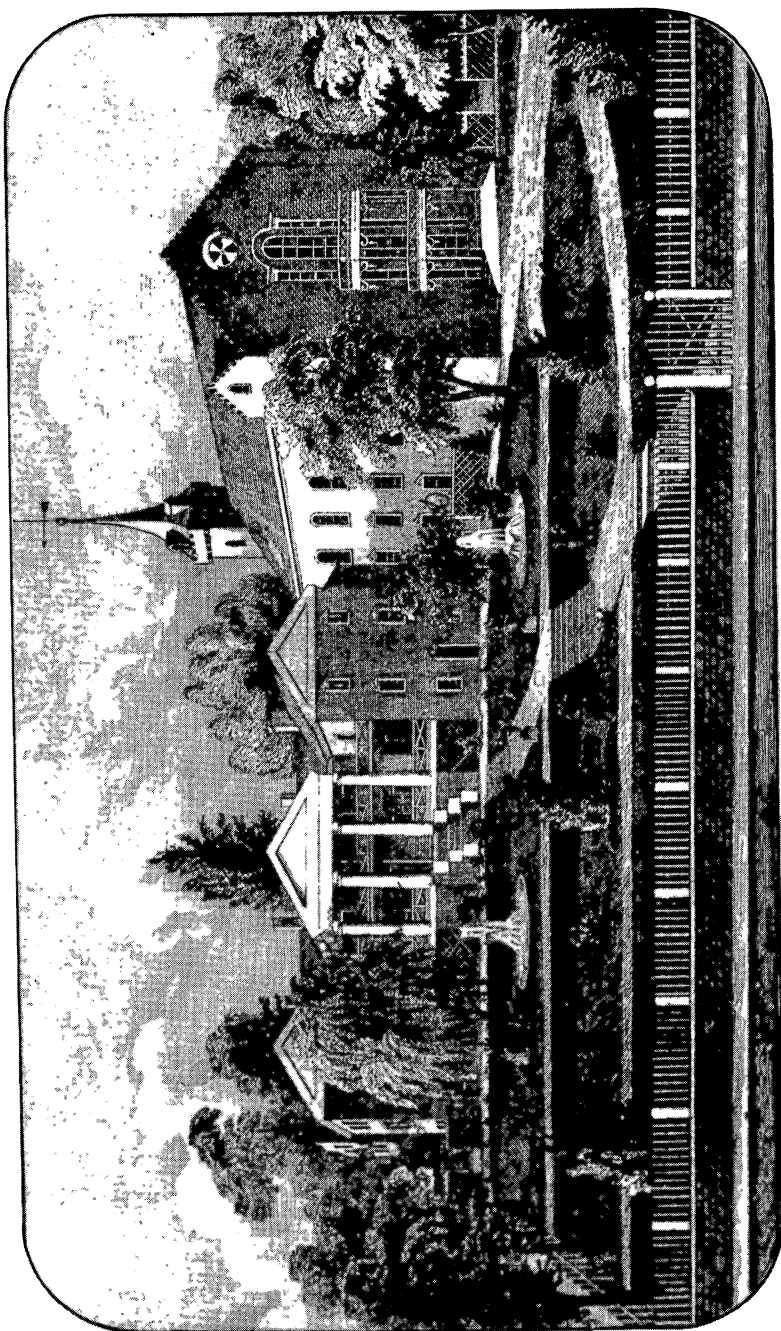
M. B. Truss

## THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

In that day the court house bell was rung for fire alarms. There was a fire company with an old side-brake pumping engine, but in addition to this there were about two hundred fire buckets always ready for a fire.

At leaving Mr. Fuller accompanied the press man to the door with an active step and casually remarked as he looked out on the street that he had had a tremendous fall on the sleety street coming from his son's residence the day preceding. This man of eighty-four mentioned it with about the same indifference that a boy would speak of a slip on the ice. He is so tough and well preserved that it is not unreasonable to this reporter to have to interview him again when he has completed his century.





Mary Baldwin Seminary in 1870

## MARY JULIA BALDWIN

by Fannie B. Strauss

It is difficult to start a new job under almost any circumstances, but to become the principal of a girls' school in the South, in the third year of the War Between the States, almost entirely untrained for such a position and yet to make of it a phenomenal success, that is indeed remarkable, and that is just what Miss Julia Baldwin did.

She was born October 4, 1829, the daughter of Dr. William Baldwin and Margaret Sowers Baldwin of Staunton, Virginia; she was left an orphan when seven years old and grew up under the care of her maternal grandparents, who early developed her natural qualities of benevolence and self-sacrifice.

When a very young child, she suffered paralysis, which left one side of her face drawn, and nothing could be done to correct this. Therefore, no photograph, no portrait of her exists; she would permit none to be made, although the unaffected side of her face is said to have been quite pretty. A profile she considered would be deceitful. She always wore black silk or poplin dresses, with hoop or very full skirts. Her appearance was described as stately. A description of her given by one of her pupils read as follows: "A graceful woman, about five feet six inches tall, weighing approximately one hundred and forty pounds. Her full suit of dusty brown hair carefully arranged and brushed over her ears; her eyes were intellectual gray ones, her forehead high, her nose straight, her mouth small and rosy; a complexion of unusual fineness and softness, white hands that were models of beauty, and slender feet."

The Baldwin family traced the line back to the Baldwins of Buckinghamshire, England, and were descendants of the famous family of William the Conqueror's day, connected with the royal houses of both France and England.

Augusta Female Seminary was founded in Staunton in 1842 by Mr. Rufus Bailey, a minister and educator from Maine. After several years of educational work in the South, he was convinced that a good Presbyterian seminary for the young women of the South should be established and that a suitable location would be Staunton, Virginia. He presented his plans to the minis-

ters and members of the Presbyterian churches of Staunton and Augusta County and became the first principal of the Seminary.

Miss Baldwin was a pupil the first year the school opened and in this same school she finished her education. Her heart went out to the many poor children of Staunton, who, in the absence of public schools, were growing up without the opportunities of even the most meager instruction. Possessing a small competence derived from her father's estate, she rented a little schoolroom, and enlisting the interest and aid of several young ladies, opened a charity school, about 1857, which continued successfully for several years. Even as a young woman she had decided to make teaching her profession, not merely as a means of support, but because of the good she felt she could do and the useful career which it offered. However, at the beginning of the Civil War she devoted herself to war aid and relief, yet had time for her beloved teaching. Upon the death of her grandmother, with whom she lived, in 1862, she rented suitable premises and began to conduct a private school for girls known as the "Bee Hive Seminary." It was while engaged in this occupation which promised a modest success, and with no thought nor aspiration of a more ambitious or distinguished career, that she was offered the vacant principalship of Augusta Female Seminary in 1863. At this period of greatest crisis in the history of the school, Miss Baldwin agreed to assume the responsibility, and a new era began for the Seminary. Modest and retiring, at the age of thirty-four, she was little known to the people of the community in which she lived as possessing the latent qualities that were to make the great educator and wise administrator, which her subsequent career so splendidly demonstrated.

The school, which most people thought could not continue to struggle on in the poverty, the distractions and the sorrows of the war, was advertised to open on the first day of October 1863. The buildings were almost entirely unfurnished, and there were scarcely enough household articles remaining to equip the sleeping room of even Miss Baldwin. When a boarding student was entered, all necessary furniture had to be borrowed: Bedding, towels, chairs, dishes, knives, and forks, and the homes of many Stauntonians were stripped of all articles which could be spared.

Friends were kind and sent contributions of every sort. The dinner table presented a queer appearance, set, as it was, with odds and ends gathered from here and there; no two cups

and saucers alike; here a kitchen knife and there a silver one, while a stately cut glass goblet was arranged alongside a heavy china mug; but young appetites are not fastidious, and the girls grew strong and hearty, no matter if butter and gravy never appeared at the same meal, or if their coffee was made from rye and sweetened with sorghum.

The furniture of the rooms, as the variety of settings of the dinner table, was collected from everywhere—no two pieces alike. As a general rule, these little makeshifts gave the girls no concern, but human nature, and especially school-girl nature, changes very little. A mirror had been procured for every room but one. Tearfully, the occupants of this room begged Miss Baldwin to try one more time; they had looked at themselves in the water-bowl until they were tired and did so want a looking-glass. Miss Baldwin set out and returned triumphant, bringing the panel of an old-fashioned clock in which was set a mirror. A friend, to whom she had told her troubles, had unearthed it from the dust and cobwebs of her garret. No plate glass mirror was ever received with such joyful acclamations.

Miss Baldwin was aware of the economic straits to which the country had been reduced by war, so asked the patrons, that in so far as possible the payment for board and tuition be made in country produce for food and hay for the cow. The plan worked admirably, and the girls in the Seminary, through her wisdom and pre-vision, fared, not sumptuously, but in some respects better than did the fighting armies in the field. Also because of her resourcefulness when the Northern soldiers passed through Staunton and entered the Seminary, the food supplies were entirely safe.

Staunton in those days was the depot for many army supplies and was alive with soldiers wearing both the blue and gray. Whenever the dread cry "the Yankees" echoed through the halls, down dropped every book and out rushed every girl. The wood pile claimed first attention. Two girls would seize upon a log of wood, put an end on each shoulder and off they would go to deposit it in the dark and hidden precincts of the cellar. By stratagems which would have rendered a general famous forty barrels of flour had been procured by Miss Baldwin—and now how to hide them for safe keeping. It was suggested that each girl drape a barrel in one of her crinoline skirts, thus making a dainty dressing table for every room. However, there were more barrels than rooms. So the remaining flour was sewed

up in a tick and did duty as a bed. When the invading soldiers were coming, the thinnest girl in school chalked her cheeks to a ghastly white and got into her bed of flour. As Miss Baldwin ushered a Federal officer into the room to make the usual search, the ghostly figure rose up in bed as if just wakened from sleep. The startled officer backed out of the room with a murmured apology for disturbing a girl so ill. The pretty dressers aroused no suspicions, hence the flour was saved, not only for the girls but for a many wounded soldier in the hospital. Another favorite plan when there was something valuable to be saved, was for Miss Baldwin to show the search officer around, taking them graciously into rooms and halls, upstairs and down, in and out, through the endless maze of crooks and turns, until the men were completely bewildered and went off none the wiser for their pains and at one time did not ever notice a dozen barrels of flour in one of the halls. And the cow, one of Miss Baldwin's prize possessions; each girl resolved that no harm should come to it, so whenever danger threatened, they formed themselves into detachments of two, with a relief every two hours to watch over their source of milk and butter. And if by chance the cow did happen to stray, shrieks of "the cow—the cow" rent the air and out turned the entire school, teachers and pupils, to search until the missing animal was found.

The school became at once a great success and so continued. But curiously enough, with the end of the war came a repetition of some of the chief difficulties which had been encountered in 1863. The Principal had no money that would pass as currency, and the friends who had loaned furniture were compelled to reclaim it because of the necessities in their homes, but by degrees the Seminary was refurnished. Within three years after Appomattox the school's enrollment had increased from about 75 to 137 pupils.

One of Miss Baldwin's distinguished characteristics was the possession of a keen knowledge and understanding of men and women. She made no mistakes in choosing the teachers and officials, the selection of whom rested chiefly with her. Among the earliest of her instructors was a sister-in-law of Dr. William H. McGuffey, the famous professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of Virginia, whose *Readers* opened up the ways of knowledge to many children of past generations. Miss Baldwin's adventure with the school greatly interested Dr. McGuffey, and, recognizing her fine qualities and courageous efforts, he came

to her assistance in academic matters and aided her freely with his experience and advice and council in organizing the course of instruction and general educational plan and system. When Miss Baldwin formulated a course of study, than which there was none higher in the South, she was almost alone. Many persons regarded her standard beyond the mental capacity of women. One of the great aims of her life was that a broader culture be disseminated throughout the South. The same Dr. McGuffey, in 1868, wrote: "I consider Augusta Female Seminary among the best, if not the best in the South." However, he was one of those who warned Miss Baldwin that she was making the course of study too high for the school ever to become a popular institution. The plan of instruction was similar to that of the University of Virginia, modified only so far as to adapt it to the peculiar requisites of girls of the day. Parents in the Valley were sending their sons to the University, to Virginia Military Institute, enhanced in prestige by Stonewall Jackson's association with it, or to Washington and Lee, at whose head presided the beloved Robert E. Lee. What better place for their daughters than Augusta Female Seminary under a Southern



Miss Baldwin's Office  
Picture credit: Mary Baldwin College

gentlewoman of excellent family? Miss Baldwin herself gave constant attention to the social conduct of her students. Alumnae who knew her well recalled a frequent and characteristic statement of hers with respect to any impropriety on the part of a girl: "I am grieved, shocked and mortified that any young lady of mine would cross her knees in public" (or whatever the impropriety might be).

Around Miss Baldwin there grew up a legend of irreproachability. To her pupils she was "without fear and without reproach." Girls told how they used to "criticize catalogues"—writing opposite each name the faults and foibles they discovered in teachers and classmates. But no criticism was ever written opposite Miss Baldwin's name. It has been told how this atmosphere of sanctity surrounded her, even in her earlier pre-seminary days and influenced the community. Opposite her grandmother's house, where she lived, was a saloon. Young men declared that if they saw Miss Baldwin sitting by the window, they would not enter the saloon, so great was their respect for her. Another amusing and interesting story: Young men who came to call upon Miss Baldwin's girls had to show proper credentials. "Uncle Chess" (who had been a slave in the family of Miss Baldwin's grandmother and who came to the Seminary with her, was for many years her coachman, bell-ringer, mail-carrier and yard-man) one day opened the front door to two young gentlemen callers; one had the credentials but the other did not. He stated that he was Thomas Woodrow Wilson, a cousin of the young lady upon whom he was calling and also the son of a former pastor of Miss Baldwin. After what seemed a very long time, during which Mr. Wilson suggested having a word of prayer for the success of their mission, "Uncle Chess" returned and announced: "Miss Mary Julia says if ye ain't got de papers dar ain't no use your waitin', cause ye can't see dem young ladies."

Her discipline was that of a really great executive. Girls wept as they came from her office, not from hurt feeling but from penitence. Her favorite punishments were in accordance with her common sense. They memorized poetry or scripture, something of a benefit in itself.

In 1870 Miss Baldwin gave a lot for the erection of the First Presbyterian Church; up to this time the church was on the Seminary property; this passed to the possession of the school. The grounds were now enlarged, buildings added, the best of

teachers aided her by their loyalty and talents, the pupils came quite unsought, so that when in 1895 the Trustees petitioned the Legislature to change the name "Augusta Female Seminary" to "Mary Baldwin Seminary" (College since 1923), it was felt to be a fitting climax to the aims and deeds of a lifetime.

Miss Baldwin thoroughly understood the measure of her own capacity—what she could and what she could not do. To the extent of her ability she trusted herself and labored with courage and untiring energy. Beyond that she called in the assistance of other persons. She was self-sacrificing in her effort to promote the welfare of her pupils. She was a woman of prayer and gifted in praise and petition, and for years was her own chaplain. Her ability as an organizer and as an administrator was only one side of her splendidly rounded character as a great educator. Another side, equally significant in making the institution under her charge a notable success, was what may be called the domestic one, shown in her contact with the members of her faculty and with her pupils.

She illustrated that indescribable influence, often exercised by individuals of unique mind and character, which accomplishes results without fuss or show, and so unobtrusively as almost to escape notice. With her strong religious feeling and her original individualism were blended unwearying compassion, good temper, conscientious devotion to duty, and an affection, which, while it was not unduly demonstrative, was always broad and generous. In her personal habits of neatness, dignity, consideration, courtesy and forbearance, she taught better lessons than those learned from books. Without sensing, perhaps, the coming social changes and problems, Miss Baldwin had given the young women the best preparation for facing them, through her personal example of piety, fortitude and forgetfulness of self in service to others and in the emphasis she placed on the development of the personality and character of the individual. Her fondness for animals, especially dogs, softens the picture of her which her reserve and dignity might tend to make her severe. Her two pets were named "Beauty" and "Midget." These accompanied her on her walks in town and on her rounds of the school grounds. Each dog had a small silver bell around its neck and her approach was heralded by the tinkling.

Miss Baldwin not only revived the Seminary and made it prosper but she reorganized and expanded the curriculum, she restored immediately the local prestige the school had had in



Miss Mary Julia Baldwin's dog

its early days and in time enshrined it in the hearts of her townsmen and gave it a South-wide and finally a nation-wide reputation. Miss Baldwin's School (often affectionately so called) was, it can be safely said, without a peer among postwar seminaries. It is not surprising that her achievement was declared astonishing in her day. The school she took over had only one large building, which was practically unfurnished and a debt of three thousand dollars; her own inheritance of four thousand dollars went into the school. With no endowment and no further aid except the donation, by the Presbyterian Church, of the Chapel (of which Woodrow Wilson's father at one time was the pastor and in which he was baptized), which she had to remodel for Seminary purposes, she made a remarkable business success of the school. From the profits she purchased land, added and equipped three dormitories for the girls, provided academic and musical equipment, maintained the plant, gave generously to the church, to public and private benevolences, to students

unable to finance their education, and left considerable investments in addition to the Seminary property.

Miss Baldwin died July 1, 1897, in the same room which she had occupied the entire thirty-four years of her principalship of the school. This building in Miss Baldwin's day was known as "Brick House"; since that time it has been remodeled and is known now as "Agnes McClung Building," in honor of Miss Baldwin's friend and helper of the early days, Miss Agnes McClung. Miss Baldwin is buried in Thornrose Cemetery.

The local press of Staunton praised the school in every occasion. The city was proud of its Seminary and of its citizen, Miss Mary Julia Baldwin. Even by 1866 Miss Baldwin had renewed the reputation of her school.

*The Spectator* of February 3, 1866, stated: This Seminary, which for so many years merely existed, has now under all the troubles of these times established itself by such remarkable success, is a deserved tribute to the zeal and devotion of the Principal in the cause of female education. And in June of the same year, the editor declared: Miss Baldwin has exhibited, in the discipline and successful management of the school, a degree of executive ability rarely shown by persons of either sex. Another local paper, the *Valley Virginian* wrote in 1884: No human calculation can say how much the Institution has done for the education of the daughters of our land. Fortunate it would be if every town possessed a Miss Baldwin.

She was already the first citizen of Staunton and without a doubt the foremost woman of the Valley, if not in all Virginia.

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Henry Miller's "Mansion House," Mossy Creek, Virginia

Seventh of a Series

## OLD HOMES OF AUGUSTA COUNTY

Henry Miller's "Mansion House" at Mossy Creek

by Gladys B. Clem

In a bend of the highway between Churchville and Harrisonburg (Route 42) stands the old stone dwelling that once was known as Henry Miller's "Mansion House."

Miller had patented his land in 1768. Later he pyramided his holdings so it is said, into a vast 30,000 acre agricultural and industrial empire in what was then, the backwoods of Virginia.

His method of farming would have been designated as progressive, even by modern techniques. His stock was of the best; his thoroughbred bulls and oxen being imported from England. After developing his land he next built a grist mill—always an important adjunct to a farming community.

Along the creek banks, where the spring "freshets" had washed away the top soil, he had discovered beds of high grade ore which were found to produce iron of excellent quality. As a teen age boy in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Miller had learned the smithy trade under the direction of his uncle, Squire Boone, Daniel Boone's father. He never lost the fascination of working with metal and from his glowing forge he was soon producing the necessary iron implements for the nearby settlers. Out of this local need, "Miller's Iron Works" developed into what was one of the most lucrative enterprises west of the Blue Ridge. For nearly a century it was to enjoy this status.

A paper mill was next added to Miller's numerous business ventures. Much of the paper used by the "Richmond Whig," was said to have been produced by Miller.

It was about 1784 that he built his "Mansion House," selecting a knoll overlooking a meadow where a slow moving little stream gathered moss and cresses as it flowed along. The name Mossy Creek was a natural.

Miller planned his new home with characteristic exactitude. Only prime timber and the best of stone would be used. It might be severe in detail but its construction would be of the most substantial.



Solid iron step, product of Miller's Iron Works, used as side entrance



Spring House

Six broad pillars of pie faced brick were used to support the wide portico. Twin entrance doors, heavy and solid enough to withstand an army, fitted with huge English locks and hand-wrought hinges, were set into the panelled thickness of the stone walls. Overhead plain, but well balanced, fanlights provided additional lighting to the deep halls. Seven windows across the front second story flood the rooms with sunshine.

Extra wide halls, thirty some feet long, lead to the dwelling's twenty-two rooms, (in later years a brick extension had been added.) each with its own fireplace, (as well as the two halls). The enormous amount of wood to supply them being grown and cut from the Miller estate. The twenty-three inch thick walls are indicated by the wide panelled door frames between the rooms. The door step of one being a large stone, polished to glass-like smoothness by time and two centuries of footsteps.

The doorways are designed with two unadorned perpendicular panels, which characterized both English and German construction of that period. The mantels are all plain but excellent in line and proportion. In the dining room are two closets, on either sides of the room, one originally housing a dumb waiter, where food was lifted from the brick floored kitchen in the basement below.

A sub basement, enclosed by the thick foundation walls, has a story all its own. During the Civil War, it is said, the soldiers taken prisoner in the engagements around Mossy Creek were kept there until removed to some designated army prison. The rough wooden bunks still remain — although prosaically used in later years for the storage of winter apples and potatoes.

A solid piece of iron, some six inches in depth and several feet long, with numerals "1822," evidently a product of the iron works, form the bottom step of the side yard entrance. The stone spring house across the road, the smoke house and wash house are all that remain of the dwelling's once numerous dependencies.

Of all Miller's enterprises the iron works was his favorite. After his death in the 1790's, his oldest son, Samuel was appointed "to carry on the iron business for 5 years," while the two younger boys "were to be given a good English education." In 1811 the iron works were advertised in the old Staunton *Republican Farmer*, along "with 8,000 acres supposedly the most valuable land of its kind in Virginia."

John Kenagy, of Pennsylvania, purchased the property from the Miller estate and operated the business for the next decade. In turn he sold the holdings to Daniel Forrer, a grandson of the noted Swiss clock and watch maker, Christian Forrer. With the same genius for organization as Henry Miller, Forrer infused new vigor into the Mossy Creek industries, not only opening up new ore deposits, but purchasing from other localities, as well. In 1907 Samuel Forrer, Daniel Forrer's son came into possession. After his death in 1916, William Joseph, of Harrisonburg, purchased from the Forrer heirs. The present owners being Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kagey, of Dayton, the latter a daughter of Mr. Joseph.

Most of the settlers seeking homesites and employment at the mills were Scotch Irish. They built their homes along the meandering little stream until a good sized community extended the length of the creek valley. A place to worship was soon established. Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church, being organized in 1768, now occupies its fifth edifice. Until the Civil War, Mossy Creek continued to be a flourishing little village.

Jedediah Hotchkiss, a young engineer just out of college, visited the Forrers, fell in love with Virginia — and remained. He later became one of the foremost cartographers of the South, serving on Stonewall Jackson's staff during the war. Persuaded by Mr. Forrer, Hotchkiss agreed to teach the young boys of the village. From these efforts Mossy Creek Academy was established, which functioned successfully until the Civil War. Used as a hospital during the Valley campaigns it caught fire and burned with other buildings in the village.

The race supplying water for the iron works and the other two mills eventually caused the formation of a large lake. During the era of stage travel, Mossy Creek was an important stopping place on the Warm Springs—Harrisonburg Turnpike. Years later, when the Chesapeake and Western R.R. ran excursions there, the lake continued to be a favorite spot for holiday seekers.

In the serene and quiet countryside, one's imagination can readily vision what the thriving little village that stretched along narrow Mossy Creek was like a century ago. Only Mossy Creek Church stands on its gentle knoll, a part of the living present as well as a reminder of the past.

## Augusta County Court Proceedings OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO

John Graham committed to the stocks for 1½ hour for contempt and bound to peace towards James Lochart.

Sheriff ordered to repair the pillory and underpin the stocks two feet from the ground and place a gate at each side of bar in court house.

Euphenia Hughes — granted ordinary license.

To William Hide— building a jailor's house. Cost £ 139.15 or 33,590 pounds of tobacco.

The King vs. George Lewis for driving his wagon on the Sabbath Day.

David Harmon summoned to Court for not bringing up his children in a Christian like manner.

Dr. George Parker, servant of Samuel McChesney, buys his freedom.

Scott vs. Clinebell. William Scott complains that several years ago he laid off a town on his lands known by name of Middlebrook. George Clinebell drew lot # 28.

William Robertson sues James Anderson for trespass. James killed Robertsons' fowls and hogs with ratsbane.

James Bell disturbed Court by playing ball.

Mary McCay bound to William Wallace (a tithable), lived near Middle River.

Joseph Martin having misbehaved in a boisterous manner in the court house yard while Court was in session. The sheriff took him into custody there to remain until he entered into payment for his good behavior of the sum of £ 10 (pounds).

Lewis Womanstaff, age 4 years to be bound to Ludwig Wagoner. His father has run away.



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